



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND ADULT EDUCATION

May 14, 2020

Penny Schwinn
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Education
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commissioner Schwinn:

I am writing in response to Tennessee's request on April 28, 2020 that the U.S. Department of Education (Department) waive section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), commonly referred to as the "Tydings Amendment," to extend the period of availability of Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 funds for obligation for programs in which the SEA participates as the eligible agency until September 30, 2021, due to widespread school and program closures and disruptions related to the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Specifically, Tennessee requested a waiver to extend the period of availability for obligation of the following until September 30, 2021:

- ✓ FY 2018 State grants authorized by Title I of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006
- FY 2018 State grants authorized by Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act

After reviewing Tennessee's request, pursuant to authority delegated to me under section 3511(b) of Division A of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act, P.L. 116-136), I am pleased to approve a waiver of section 421(b) of GEPA for these funds, extending their period of availability for obligation through September 30, 2021.

As a reminder, by submitting the waiver, Tennessee assured that:

- The SEA will use, and ensure that its subgrantees use, funds under the respective programs in accordance with the provisions of all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications not subject to these waivers;
- The SEA will work to mitigate, and ensure that its subgrantees will work to mitigate, any negative effects, if any, that may occur as a result of the requested waiver(s); and

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

- The SEA will provide the public and all subgrantees in the State with notice of, and the opportunity to comment on, this request by posting information regarding the waiver request and the process for commenting on the State website.

I know that you are doing everything you can to support your districts, schools, and programs to ensure the health and well-being of students and educators. Thank you for your dedication to this effort. If you have any questions about this waiver, please contact my staff at AskOCTAE@ed.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Stump". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Scott Stump,
Assistant Secretary for
Career, Technical, and Adult Education